THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE Common-Hall OF LONDON

C.S.L.2.62
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The 24*th* of *June*, 1681.

At the Choice of SHERIFFS, and other Officers:

AS ALSO

The Proceedings there the 27*th* Instant, at the Declaring of the Sheriffs, *&c.*

THE Livery-men being met in the *Guild-Hall* between Ten and Eleven of the Clock, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen came upon the *Hustings*, and immediately the Common Cryer Declared the *Hall*: After which the Recorder made a most excellent Speech, shewing by what Authority they there met: And the Officers they were to Chuse, especially the Sheriffs, in whom they put a very great Trust; therefore they had need to Chuse Men of good Principles, *&c.* Then the Lord Mayor, *&c.* withdrew; and the Common Serjeant having made a Speech, the Hall proceeded to Election, and began with the Sheriffs; the persons put up to be Elected, were *Thomas Pilkington*, Alderman, *Samuel Shute*, Esq; *Ralph Box*, Esq; Sir *William Russell*, Sir *William Dodson*, *Humfrey Nicholson*, Esq; They agreed Alderman *Pilkington* to be put up first; but some Dispute was in the Hall, whether Mr. *Shute*, or Mr. *Box* should be the next; the Major part of the Hall appear'd for *Shute*; but the Common Serjeant said, It was in his Power to put up whom he pleas'd first; upon which a Member of the Hall said, It was not in his Power to put up whom he pleas'd first, but it was in the Power of the Hall to put up and Chuse a Common Serjeant, which they would do presently, if he did not behave himself better. At length it was agreed Mr. *Shute* should be put up before Mr. *Box*; which being done, they proceeded to Election: The Candidates being put up singly, it appear'd very plain, by the Number of Hands, that the Election fell upon Alderman *Pilkington* and Mr. *Shute*; but persons Demanding a Poll for Mr. *Box* and Mr. *Nicholson*, the present Sheriffs granted it. The Hall then went to the Choice of *Chamberlain*, Sir *Thomas Player*, the present Chamberlain, and Deputy *Daniel* being the persons put up, there did not appear Twenty Hands, according to view, for Deputy *Daniel*; so the Election was clear for that Worthy Citizen and True English-man, Sir *Thomas Player*; whose Carriage hath been such, as will make him Honourable in future Ages to all good Protestants.

The Hall then Chose the Auditors of the Bridg-House Accounts; Many were put up, but the Election was clear for Mr. *Thomas Shepherd*, and Mr. *Michael Godfrey*, Merchants, two Worthy Citizens.

Then the Hall proceeded to the Choice of Bridg-Masters; the persons in Nomination were Deputy *Sexton*, Mr. *Shepherd*, the present Bridg-Masters, and Captain *Brackley*; by the view of Hands it was judged to fall upon Deputy *Sexton* and Mr. *Shepherd*: but a Poll was demanded for Captain *Brackley*, which was granted.

The Hall then Chose the *Aleconners*, which was all the same as was last year. The Sheriffs then declared they would go up and acquaint the Lord Mayor of the Proceedings of the Hall, and then go presently to Polling, and make an end this night, which they accordingly immediately came back; Alderman

Pilkington

Pilkington declar'd he would not hold, if he was not Choſen by Poll, for that he would take no notice of the Common-Halls confirming the Lord Mayor's drinking to him. Then the Sheriffs went to Polling in the *Guild-Hall-Yard*, under the *Piazza's*, where the Worthy Sheriffs (as they are Famous for the reſt of their True Engliſh Actions, this may be Recorded amongſt the reſt) had prepared Eleven Writers to take the Poll, and ſeveral Worthy Citizens view'd the taking of the ſame; and between ſeven and eight of the Clock in the evening the Sheriffs went upon the *Huſtings* in the *Guild-Hall*, and had Proclamation made, That if any perſon that had a Right to Poll, could give any reaſon why the Poll ſhould not be ſhut up, they were deſired to ſpeak; upon which there was not a Man ſpoke.

Thus theſe Worthy Sheriffs finiſhed that in five or ſix hours, that ſome in their places formerly were ſix or ſeven days about, to the great eaſe and content of the Citizens.

Upon the 27*th* Inſtant a Common-Hall was call'd to declare the Election; and upon view of the Poll, Alderman *Pilkington* had 3144, Mr. *Shute* 2244, Mr. *Box* 1266, Mr. *Nicholſon* 84; ſo that Alderman *Pilkington* and Mr. *Shute* were declared duly Elected.

The Election (upon the Poll) for *Bridg-Maſters* fell upon Deputy *Sexton* and Captain *Brackley*. Which Elections being declared to the Common-Hall by the Recorder, an Addreſs to the Lord Mayor, and another Addreſs to the Two preſent Sheriffs was preſented, and carried Unanimouſly, with loud Acclamations: And when the word *PARLIAMENT* was read in the Addreſs to the Lord Mayor, the whole Hall gave a very great ſhout.

The Addreſſes are as followeth:

To the Right Honourable Sir *Patience Ward*, Knight, Lord Mayor of the City of *London*: The Humble Petition of the Commons of the City of *London* in Common-Hall Aſſembled,

Sheweth,

THAT *we do with all thankfulneſs acknowledg the great and wonderful mercy of Almighty God, in that notwithſtanding the daily Plots and wicked Contrivances of the* Papiſts *and their Accomplices, we do ſtill enjoy our ancient and undoubted Right and Freedom of aſſembling our ſelves together for the choice of ſome principal Officers of this City for the year enſuing.*

And whileſt we attend upon this Duty, we cannot but with all Gratitude remember the great care and faithful endeavours of your Lordſhip, the Aldermen and Commons in Common-Council lately aſſembled in ordering an Humble Addreſs to be preſented to His Majeſty, wherein was expreſſed your Lordſhips and their due ſenſe of the continued danger of His Majeſties Life (which God long preſerve) and of the Proteſtant Religion, and of all our Lives, Liberties, and Eſtates, by the Deſigns and Conſpiracies ſo long projected by the Councils of Rome *and its Adherents. In the purſuit whereof they are chiefly animated by the continual hopes of a Popiſh Succeſſor, and alſo your and their juſt apprehenſions, that no effectual means can be provided againſt the impending evils therein mentioned, but by the wiſdom and advice of his Majeſties great Council the Parliament.*

And whereas it hath come to our knowledg, that reports (by miſtake or prejudice) have been raiſed that the ſaid Addreſs did contain only the ſenſe and deſires of a few perſons, and not of the Generality of this great City: We do therefore moſt humbly pray your Lordſhip that you will (in ſuch manner as ſhall ſeem beſt to your Lordſhips diſcretion) humbly repreſent to his Majeſty, that the ſubject matter of the ſaid Addreſs is alſo the true ſenſe, and doth contain the humble deſires and reſolutions of his true and loyal Subjects the Citizens of his City of London *in this their Common-Hall now aſſembled, and that his Majeſty would be graciouſly pleaſed to eſteem it as ſuch.*

And we having likewiſe taken notice that the ſame Common-Council did at the time of their Voting the ſaid Addreſs render their thanks to our late worthy members of the laſt Parliament for their faithful endeavours to ſerve this City according to the deſires and inſtructions to them given, and made by us at the time of their Election, we do think it our duty at this time to teſtifie our full concurrence therein.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever pray, *&c.*

To the Honoured *Slingsby Bethel* and *Henry Corniſh*, Eſquires, Sheriffs of this City of *London*, and County of *Middleſex*.

WE (*the Citizens of the ſaid City in* Common-Hall *Aſſembled, being ſenſible of, and greatly ſatisfied with your Faithful Endeavours, to diſcharge thoſe Offices of Truſt which we (not long ſince) call'd you too: And conſidering your wiſe and prudent conduct, and managery of our affairs within this City, particularly in your maintaining and aſſerting our undoubted Rights and Priviledges (as Citizens), and continual proviſion of faithful and able Juries, eſpecially in ſuch a time as this, when Innocency it ſelf is not ſhrouded from the imputation of the blackeſt crimes, and the beſt and moſt Loyal Proteſtants are expos'd to the utmoſt hazards, by the Perjuries, Subornations and Villanies of the Popiſh party, and their Adherents; and we cannot at this time omit the mentioning your fair Proceedings in our preſent Election of Sheriffs for the year enſuing, and diſpatch of an unneceſſary Poll, without putting us off by Adjournments to a troubleſome and weary attendance) do offer and return to you our moſt hearty Thanks (as the only compenſation we can (at preſent) make) being confidently aſſur'd that you will ſteadfaſtly perſiſt in thoſe your moſt faithful Endeavours, as long as you ſhall continue Officers in this Honourable City.*

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